

**Weekly Update from Administration for 12/14/11**  
**By Ray Sandrock, County Administrator**

Our Dial-A-Ride transit service has added a new option to the call tree. Clients now have the ability to cancel a scheduled trip by pressing #4 in the automated phone menus. This is a time-saving tool for clients to quickly cancel their scheduled trips rather than waiting for the next available dispatcher. Dispatchers see the canceled trip line and they are able to pick up the line quickly to get the trip cancellation information. This new feature is expected to reduce client no-shows and reduce the transit service's fuel consumption and costs. The Dial-A-Ride Program is a curb-to-curb bus service available to the general public for a small fee. Call Transit Services at 941.575.4000, and press option #1. Dial-a-Ride bus service is available Monday through Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**Educational programs**

Our growth management department will be collaborating with Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida and the Boys and Girls Clubs of Charlotte County to develop a series of six week workshops that will be presented at five different after school programs in Charlotte County. "Our City" is a series of five activities recommended for students in third grade. For each 45-minute activity, materials are packaged in a self-contained kit that includes detailed activity plans for the volunteer and materials for 30 students. The sixth week will consist of a hands-on Lego planning exercise where students will work together to plan the redevelopment of an area in Charlotte County. All Junior Achievement programs are designed to support the skills and competencies identified by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. These programs also augment school-based, work-based, and connecting activities for communities with school-to-work initiatives.

**Sidewalk update**

Of the current year one sales tax sidewalk projects, South Fairway Drive is complete. Boundary Boulevard and Alton Road sidewalk projects are substantially complete, with minor decorative features and a handrail to finish. The Manor Road sidewalk project is underway with approximately 180+ linear feet of sidewalk and 3 driveways poured, and more prep work done. The Collingswood Boulevard sidewalk project is farther along with over 600 linear feet of 8-foot-wide sidewalk poured and finished.

**Giant garage sales**

Earlier this month Tringali Recreation Center hosted another Giant Community Garage Sale. The indoor gymnasium has 21 vendor sites and outside has 27 vendor sites. The event is free to the public had about 300 to 350 people attending. Giant Community Garage Sale is held at the Tringali Recreation Center, 3460 N. Access Road in Englewood, on the first and third Sunday of each month and will continue through the month of April. Next one is Dec. 18. Call 941. 681.3742 for more information.

**Santa at the libraries**

Santa and his elves will be visiting the Libraries soon! Santa will be at the Punta Gorda Library on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. and at the Mid-County library on Monday, Dec. 19 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.—all ages are welcome to enjoy stories and refreshments!